

Summary of WOMT Decision 3/27/2007

The Delta Smelt Working Group discussed two recommendations with WOMT :

During WOMT's Jan 23 meeting, the DSWG presented its recommendation that the spring Head of Old River Barrier (HORB) not be installed, to help minimize the entrainment of juvenile delta smelt (See DSWG notes for January 11, 2007 at http://www.fws.gov/sacramento/es/delta_smelt.htm for the technical basis for this recommendation). During the March 27 WOMT meeting, after reviewing the best available data from surveys, Delta monitoring and particle tracking modeling (PTM), the DSWG rescinded the earlier recommendation. On March 26, the DSWG requested a new set of PTM runs with injection locations that reflected current delta smelt distribution and the latest estimate of expected hydrology to be used to compare various Old and Middle River flows both with and without barriers. The injection sites were in the north and west Delta reflecting the current adult delta smelt distribution as well as a site in the central Delta representing a potential location of spawning if adult smelt moved slightly further east before spawning. These results indicated no difference in particle fate with and without barriers.

The DSWG was asked to consider developing criteria for opening the HORB in the event young of the year delta smelt distribution shifts to the south Delta.

The MAs and PAs agreed that DWR would proceed with construction of the Temporary Barriers, given that the recommendation to preclude the HORB had been withdrawn..

The second DSWG recommendation was to continue to manage the Projects to achieve Old and Middle rivers (OMR) net flows of between -3,500 cfs to -5,000 cfs to protect young of the year delta smelt. The Projects should be operated so the five-day average does not exceed a negative OMR flow of -5,000 cfs (i.e. moderate the OMR flows so the five-day average is more positive than -5,000 cfs) to protect young of the year delta smelt.

DWR requested that the DSWG evaluate changing the 5-day averaging period to a 14-day averaging period to be consistent with the tide cycle in order to avoid the daily variability produced by the tide cycle when operating to OMR. WOMT will discuss the recommendation again next week, 4/3/2007. In the meanwhile, the EI ratio is controlling and will result in OMR flows where the five-day average does not exceed -5,000 cfs throughout the week.

Please note new contact information

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